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Response

persuasive because the text found on this page discloses that an epitope consists of the ranges comprising "at least 8 to 10 amino acids". Applicant apologizes for the oversight regarding a response to this rejection.

Applicant, however, disagrees with the Examiner's assessment as to the scope of the claims as amended. The specification clearly states that the epitope must be "at least 8 to 10 amino acids". The claims, as amended, are encompassed by this language. For example, claim 20 states that the epitope must be "at least 8 amino acids" in length and claim 21 states that the epitope must be "at least 10 amino acids" in length. Thus, these individual claims are encompassed in the language "at least 8-10 amino acids" meaning at least 8, at least 9, or at least 10 amino acids. The 'at least' phrase modifies both 8 and 10, and because of the hyphen, also modifies what is between 8 and 10, i.e. 9. Thus, the amendments to the claims is clearly supported by the specification as filed and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw her rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned remarks, the aforementioned application is in condition for allowance and Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding objections and rejections and to pass this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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